



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**



Oregon Fire Chiefs  
Association

# Northwest MAC Group

5420 N.E. Marine Drive  
Portland, Oregon 97218-1007

## Documentation of NW MAC Decisions

*Decision 22 unchanged in PM*

July 26, 2002 - PM  
NW MAC – 2002 Decision 22

**SAFETY ALERT:** *The FAST Team has identified management of fatigue to be a problem on several incidents. Crews, and particularly overhead, were found to be working beyond the standards set in work/rest guidelines. Incident Commanders are reminded of the critical importance of managing fatigue as a positive action to help ensure safety of people engaged in fighting fires. Please review work/rest guidelines with your teams and develop tracking systems for early recognition of potential problems. The guidelines that apply to contract crews are the guidelines of the agency that initiated the resource order. For federal resource orders, the contractor may meet the length of assignment guidelines by replacing crews with a fresh crew.*

**PNW Incident Priorities (set once per day in the morning, changed by exception in pm):**

<u>Fire</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>IC</u>	<u>Area Commander/MAC</u>
1. Shelton Ridge	OR – ORS	Keith 2	
2. Skunk	OR – WNF	Gardner 2	SE OR AC, Mann
3. Pickens	WA – DNR	Johnson 2	
4. N. Umpqua Complex	OR – UPF	Jackson 2	SW OR AC, Ribar
5. Biscuit/Florence	OR – SIF	Joki 2	SW OR AC, Ribar
6. Cache Mtn.	OR-DEF	Lynch 3	Central OR MAC, Torrence MC
7. Malheur Complex	OR-MAF	Morcom 2	NE OR, Rhodes AC, Grace MC
8. Toolbox Complex	OR-FRF	Gelobter/Berndt	SE OR AC, Mann
9. Winter Complex	OR-98S	Mair 2	SE OR AC, Mann
10. Timbered Rock	OR – ORS	Thorpe 2	SW OR AC, Ribar
11. Deer Point	WA – WEF	Vail/Perry	
12. White River	OR-PRD	Noble 3	Central OR MAC, Torrence MC
13. Tiller Complex	OR-UPF	Dunton/Walker 2	SW OR AC, Ribar
14. Monument	OR-MAF	Stutler 1	NE OR, Rhodes AC, Grace MC
15. 747	OR - OCF	Melton 1	NE OR, Rhodes AC, Grace MC
16. Sour Biscuit	OR-SIF	Broyles 2	SW OR AC, Ribar
17. Eyerly Complex	OR-WSA/DEF	Studebaker 1	Central OR MAC, Torrence MC

## Special Resource Allocation Priorities:

- By Incident, or area where an Area Command is in place, the most immediately critical resource needs for firefighter and public safety are:

Shelton Ridge	HMGR, HEBM, T1H, STL, TFL, DIVS, DOZB, T2 Crews
Skunk	T1&2H, T2 Crews, T6 Engines, STL, TFL, Air Tankers
Pickens	Air Platform?
N. Umpqua Complex	HECM, STL, Fallers, TFL
Biscuit/Florence	TFL, DIVS, SOF2
Cache Mtn.	T2 Crews, STL
Malheur Complex	T1H?, STL, TFL, DIVS
Toolbox Complex	DIVS, OSC2, DOZB
Winter Complex	DIVS, TFL, OSC2
Timbered Rock	FBA
Deer Point	DOZB, ST6 Engines
Tiller Complex	ATGS, STL Crews, Fallers, TFL, STL, DIVS
Monument	STL, TFL, DIVS, Falling Bosses
747	T1 Crews, T2H
Sour Biscuit	ATGS w/ Platform, AOB

- Area and Incident Commanders need to take a hard look at outstanding orders and continuing critical needs. Review outstanding orders and reassess the need to fill—and promptly cancel orders that are no longer needed. More fundamentally, Agency Administrators and Incident Commanders need to also take a hard look at the chosen alternative in the Wildfire Situation Analysis to ensure that success of the selected alternative is not dependent on more resources than are realistically available.

- 3. REALLOCATION PHILOSOPHY:** NW MAC considered possible reallocation of resources to immediately critical high priority needs this morning, with an eye to the lowest priority incidents as the source. The conclusion of the deliberations was an articulation of the following philosophy with regard to reallocations. NW MAC will:
- Not reallocate resources within Area Commands or Sub-Geographic MACs. We will rely on Area Commanders and Sub-Geographic MACs thru their Agency Administrators and Incident Commanders to allocate and reallocate resources to their highest and best use. NW MAC will inform Area Commanders, MACs, and Agency Administrators of priorities and expect them to allocate appropriately.
  - Allocate the flow of new resources into the Region based upon incident priorities and critical resource needs; and
  - Reallocate resources between the Area Commands and Sub-Geographic Areas as necessary.

**Previous Decisions:**

1. Area and Incident Commanders need to ensure that the Wildfire Situation Analysis for each incident is sent to NW MAC *today* in preparation for setting allocation and reallocation priorities at a National and Regional level when necessary.
2. In addition, each incident has received the Incident Prioritization Worksheet that needed to be completed and submitted to NW MAC by 10:00 a.m. this morning, July 26, so we can submit them to National MAC by close of business today.
3. NW MAC has developed more specific direction for use of airtankers in the NW Region as spelled out in the attached direction that is being sent to air managers and dispatch centers.
4. PNWCG agencies are working together on an interagency Severity Request.
5. Shortage of critical mid-level supervision:

Incidents throughout the NW are in critical need of line overhead. Outstanding orders remain unfilled and line resources have been removed from suppression actions because of lack of appropriate overhead. These critical resources include; Task Force Leaders, Strike Team Leaders, Division Supervisors, Helicopter Managers, Felling Bosses, and Dozer Bosses. The NW MAC is requesting that Area Commands, Incident Commanders, Sub-geographic MAC's, and Agency Administrators take the following actions:

- a) Review individual personnel fire qualifications to screen for these critical needs and reassign or make available individuals for these assignments to ensure the highest and best use of their qualifications.
- b) Identify individuals that have position task books initiated for critical positions and facilitate their training assignments. Agency Administrators are requested to seek methods to streamline processes to certify and approve individuals as "recommended for certification" in accordance with training and qualifications standards specified in the Wildland Fire Qualifications Guide (310-1) and with their respective agency guidelines and policies.

**Pending Issues:**

1. NW MAC will be submitting reviewed Incident Prioritization Worksheets to National MAC by close of business today, Friday, July 26, 2002.
2. NW MAC is in the process of making plans to deal with being at extended Preparedness Level Five, and preparing contingency plans with trigger points for moving to an extreme fire situation. We are currently working in three areas: Situation assessment; MAC functions and processes; and engagement of other civil authorities as well as media relations.

**Prioritization Criteria & Considerations:**

1. Potential to destroy or harm human life
2. Potential to destroy
  - Communities
  - Community infrastructure (including: long term effects to economic sustainability and viability)
  - Historically significant cultural resources
  - Commercial businesses
  - Principal residence (year-round homes)
  - Non-principal residence (seasonal home, cabins, etc.)
  - Out-buildings (barns, unattached garages, utility buildings, etc.)
3. Potential to impact cultural and natural resource values
4. Probability of meeting incident objectives

/s/ 7/26/2002

Gary L. Larsen  
NW MAC Coordinator

## **Use of Airtankers in the NW**

The following is issued to clarify and reiterate the policy and direction of the NW MAC as it relates to the use of heavy airtankers.

Airtankers will be used for initial attack and extended attack fires. Assignment to large fire support will be on a flight-by-flight basis using the following criteria.

- 1. Imminent threat to human life including occupied structures;**
- 2. Imminent threat to communities, community infrastructure, historically significant cultural resources, commercial businesses, and principal residences;**
- 3. Threats to other structures and improvements such as seasonal homes, cabins and high value outbuildings;**
- 4. Threats to natural resources; and**
- 5. Threats to low value structures.**

Requests for airtankers for large fire support must include or identify the above criteria to ensure that dispatch centers can correctly allocate scarce airtanker resources.

Retardant pilots and lead planes are reporting that airtankers are being ordered when visibility over the incident(s) is not adequate to safely conduct operations and/or air attack personnel are not in the air to provide communication and direction as to targets, tactics and establish drop priorities.

Incident Commanders and their operations and aviation staffs must ensure that retardant is being used wisely and judiciously with ground forces to follow up and take advantage of retardant drops.

/s/ 7/25/02

GARY L. LARSEN  
NW MAC Coordinator